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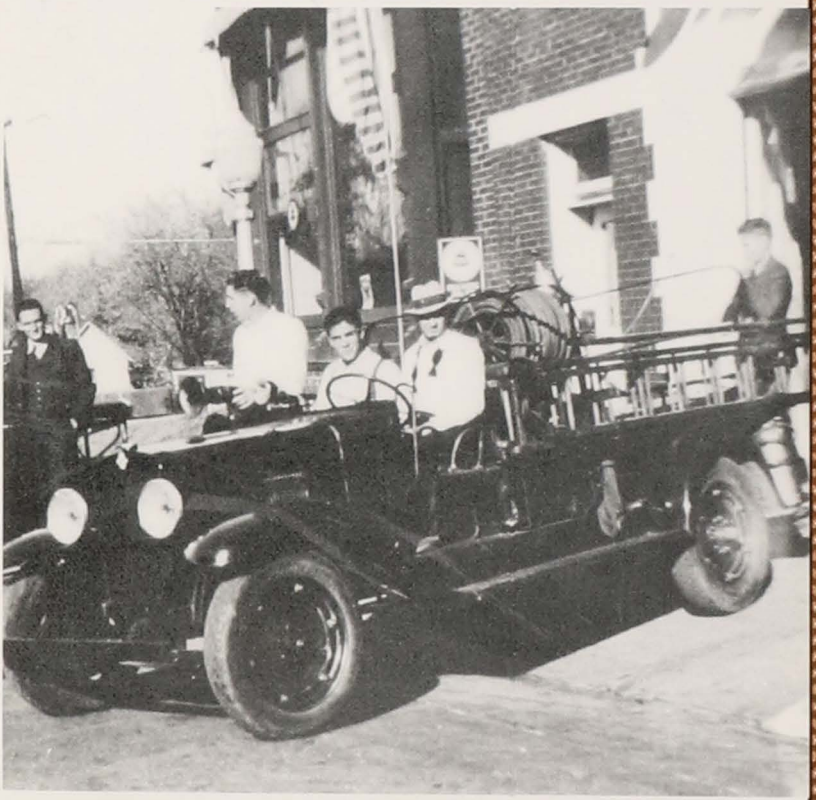
Journal of the Washington County Historical Society

Flash Back



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FLASHBACK

Journal of
the Washington County Historical Society

Volume 57 **Summer 2007** **Number 3**

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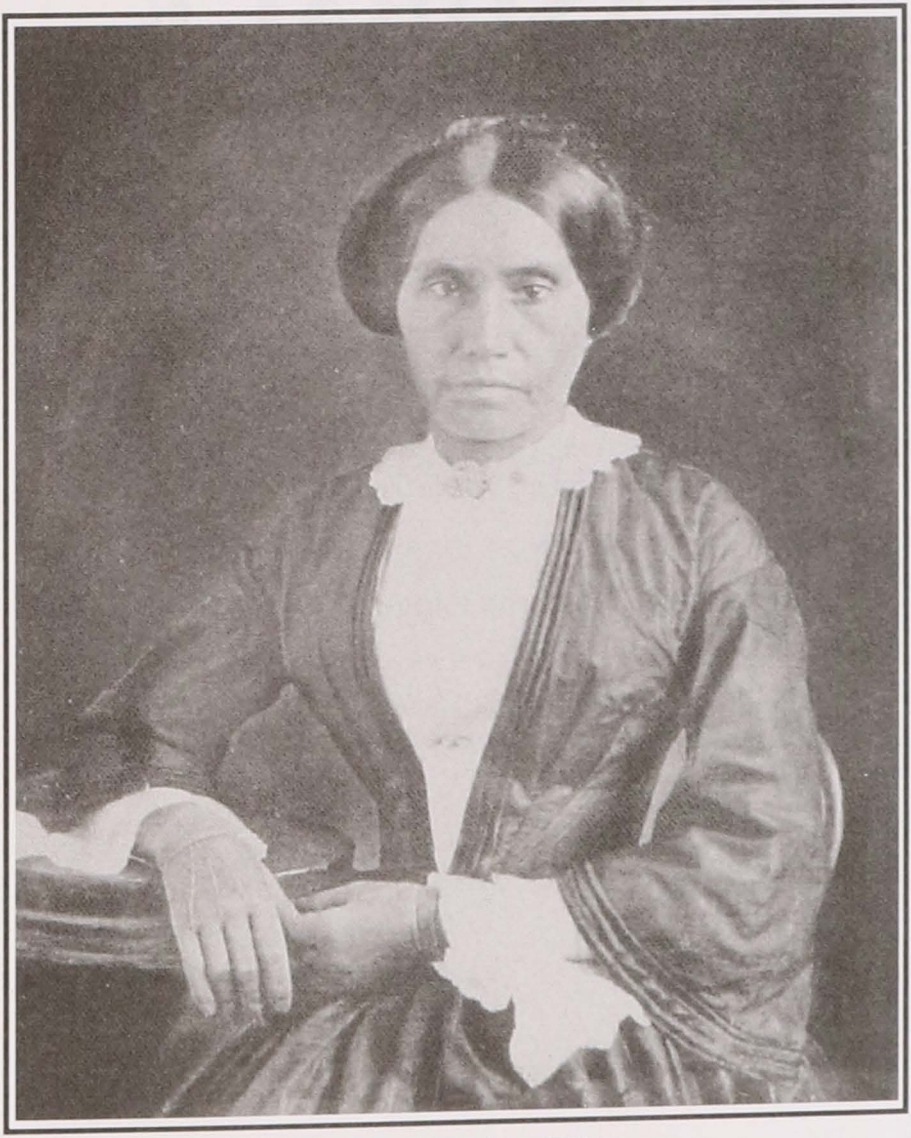
Cover: One of the Fayetteville Fire Department engines in front of the Block Street Station, ca. 1924. Fire Chief Clyde Walters is behind the steering wheel. (*Photo courtesy Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, LOC 1362)*



Sarah Bird Northrup Ridge

Photo courtesy www.paulridenour.com

LIFE OF SARAH BIRD NORTHRUP RIDGE

Arlen D. Poole*

Sarah Bird Northrup was born December 7, 1804 at New Haven, Connecticut to John W. And Lydia Northrup. (1) John Northrup was Steward at the Missionary School in Cornwall, Connecticut in the early 1800's. Sarah, age 14 when the young Cherokee, John Ridge of Georgia, entered the missionary school, is described as "blonde and beautiful". (2)

Meeting and Marriage to John Ridge

John Ridge, son of Major and Susannah Ridge of Georgia, was sent to the Missionary School in Connecticut in 1818, about age 16, to continue the education he had received in missionary schools in Georgia. After a year or more at the school, John became ill with a recurrence of a hip ailment and was housed with the Northrup family for some time. Mrs. Northrup normally saw to John's care, but Sarah and John became very close. Sarah told her parents that she loved John and aimed to marry him. They sent her to New Haven to stay with her grandparents hoping the attraction would fade. However, Sarah returned to Cornwall in three months. John wrote to his mother telling her of his wish to marry Sarah but she refused her consent because she wanted him to marry a Cherokee girl. John persisted, expressing his love for Sarah and his mother finally gave her approval. John then asked Sarah to marry him and they asked for her parents' approval. Their objection was due to John's health. So in 1822, Mrs. Northrup told John that he must go home and regain his health in the milder Georgia climate. She said he would have their consent for marriage if he could return within two years without using his crutches.

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*A.D. Poole is an active member of the Washington County Historical Society and has served as the Society's treasurer since 2003.

In 1823, after returning to Georgia, John worked at the annual council of the Cherokee as interpreter. John's health so improved within a year at home, that he requested his parents' permission to return to Cornwall to ask for Sarah's hand in marriage. In December 1823, John traveled with his Father to Washington where he spent a few days. In Cornwall, the Northrups found his health suitably sound.

John and Sarah's marriage took place at her parents' home on January 27, 1824. The reaction of the townsfolk was serious enough that all decided it best that John and Sarah leave at once, with her parents accompanying them on the first leg of their trip to Georgia.(4)

The town of Cornwall was outraged and the furor increased even more when John's cousin Elias Boudinot married Harriet Gold, 19-year old daughter of Deacon Benjamin Gold. Her father initially forbade the marriage and Elias went to seminary in Andover, Massachusetts. Harriet became quite ill after the denial, such that her parents finally relented and surrendered "to God's will". When Elias completed his studies at Andover, and Harriet recovered from her illness, and they were married March 28, 1826 in her parent's home, despite the considerable outrage in the town. The newlyweds left for Georgia in a hired coach. The Mission School in Cornwall soon closed its doors in the face of public antipathy and waning contributions. (2)

Life in Georgia and Children

John and Sarah lived for a time with his parents near present day Rome, Georgia. The first of their seven children was Clarinda, who was mentally retarded. The1850 Census of Benton County, Arkansas, lists the seven children and shows Clarinda's age as 24, giving a birth year of approximately 1826. John Rollin was born March 19, 1827. (3) Herman, Aeneas, Susan and Andrew Jackson followed, and Flora, the youngest was born in Georgia on April 5, 1837. Sarah was quite occupied having and raising seven children during her 13 years in Georgia.

During these first years back in Georgia, John was much in demand as an interpreter with the Creek Indians who were in treaty negotiations with the U S government for their land. He was the target of slander for his activities such that rumors were started that he was abusing Sarah. Missionary Reverend Butrick wrote her parents saying these rumors were

completely false. The text of his letter was published in the *Religious Intelligencer*:

> The father of Mr. [John] Ridge is —— a gentleman. His mother, a pious devoted Christian, is also a lady. They live not like the common white people in the southern country, but rank among the first. J[ohn] Ridge and his wife live with them. They have an apartment by themselves. And as I have understood by the Cornwall students, your daughter dresses richer, and appears more

John Ridge
Photo from John Rollin Ridge: His Life and Works

> like a lady, than when at Cornwall. I am confident . . . that she is not called to engage in any manual labour than what she pleases; and she has universally appeared cheerful and contented, whenever I have seen her at their house. (4)

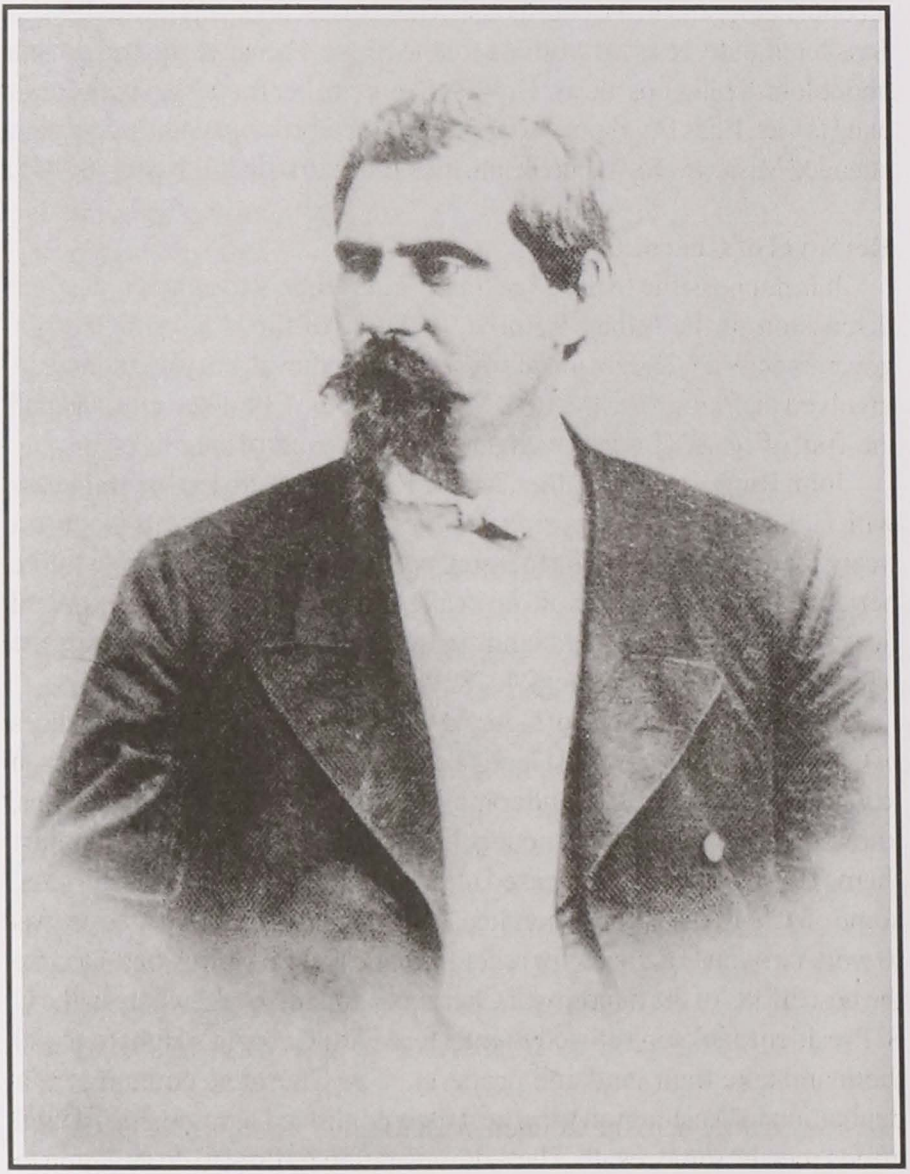
Jeremiah Evarts of the American Board for Foreign Missions verified Butrick's report after he had visited the Ridge's saying "as to the inquiry whether young Mrs. Ridge is contented and happy, it is certain she often says she is, and surely she ought to know". (4)

For their services to the Creeks, John and his father received several thousand dollars in payments. (4)

Major Ridge continued to prosper through stores, farming and operating a ferry. John became known as a lawyer among the Cherokee and acquired considerable wealth for himself. So about the time John Rollin was born, they left his parent's house which John had worked to upgrade into a fine home that still stands today near Rome, Georgia. With their family and eighteen slaves, John and Sarah settled about six miles away. John Rollin remembers their home as "a large, two-storied house on a high hill, crowned with a fine grove of oak and hickory, a large clear spring at the foot of the hill, and an extensive farm stretching away down the valley, with a fine orchard on the left." The estate was known as Running Waters after the stream that ran from the spring. (4) There were some 430 acres of land in this estate and John soon acquired another 100 acres with orchards and another ferry which provided the family with more income.

While his early life could have been idyllic, John Rollin grew up hearing of the tensions between his Cherokee people and the whites of Georgia. John and Sarah's house was the site of many meetings concerning Cherokee politics in which John was one of the leaders, though never a chief of the Cherokee as many have called him. He was elected president of the National Committee of the Cherokee Council in 1830.

The Ridge family built a school in 1834 near John and Sarah's house and Sophia Sawyer was hired to teach the Ridge children and others of the area. Miss Sawyer had been sent as a missionary teacher to the Brainerd School teaching female students. She eventually moved to establish a school in New Echota where her students included two sons of



John Rollin Ridge
Photo from John Rollin Ridge: His Life and Works

Cherokee slaves. The school grew to thirty students but her relationship with the other missionaries deteriorated. She was hired to teach at the Ridge-built school after the school at New Echota was closed because of alcohol being sold in the courthouse where that school was located. Miss Sawyer initially resisted working for the Ridge's because she had doubts about John's religious views. However, through her friendship with Sarah and Harriet, Elias Boudinot's wife, she was finally persuaded. John Rollin attended Miss Sawyer's school until their move to Indian Territory in 1837.

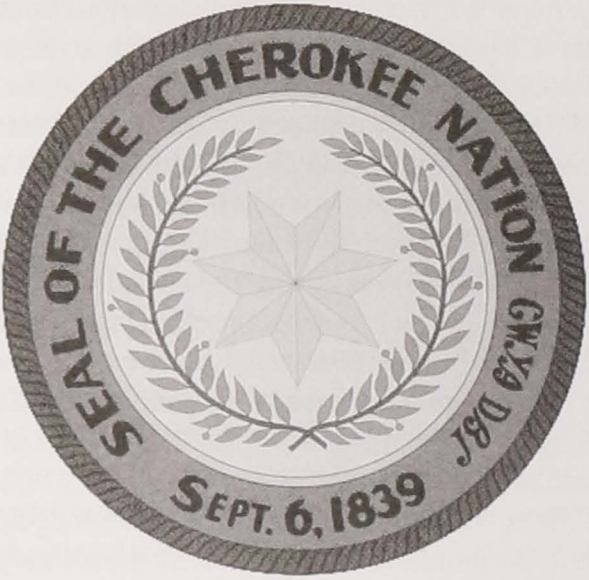
Removal of Cherokees

It is not possible to describe Sarah's and John's lives without some discussion of the Indian Removal policies of the U.S. and Georgia governments. The Ridges initially resisted the removal, but was, ultimately, involved in drafting the treaty that resulted in the Cherokee removal and the Trail of Tears. This involvement defined the rest of their lives.

John Ridge, and his father, Major Ridge worked for several years with Chief John Ross opposing the U. S. and Georgia efforts to write a treaty for removal. A drastic measure was needed against possible future betrayal of the Nation. An old law called the Blood Law that prescribed death for anyone who "sold lands in treaty without the authority of the nation" was passed October 24, 1829. (4)

In June 1830, the State of Georgia passed a law annexing "large slices of Cherokee land" to several Georgia counties. (4) Georgia citizens began to intrude on Cherokee land and commit acts of violence against the Indians, knowing the Cherokee had no legal recourse in Georgia courts against them. These intrusions increased after gold was discovered in the area, some on Cherokee lands. Cherokee leaders realized their only hope was to work through U S courts for relief from the Georgia intrusions. Despite the best efforts of the majority of Cherokees and many elsewhere in the U S, President Jackson refused to interfere with Georgia's right to expel them and take their land and property. The Cherokee council sent a deputation to Washington to protest their continued harassment. (4) All efforts met the same result. The Administration refused to do anything to support the Cherokee against Georgia and continued to recommend the Indians remove to the west for their own good.

John Ridge and Elias Boudinot worked through the U.S. government to get relief for the Cherokee people. They found much support—even



to the Supreme Court—but President Andrew Jackson refused to do anything to support the Cherokee and give relief from the Georgia intrusions and acts against them. He repeatedly told them that the best thing for them was to accept a treaty and move to the West. John Ross continued to oppose any treaty and the majority of the Cherokee sided with him. True to his word to not enforce the Supreme Court's decision, Jackson made no move to stop Georgia from beginning a survey of Cherokee lands in preparation for a lottery of the lands to the whites of Georgia. After a meeting with President Jackson in March 1832, John finally conceded the futility of continuing to resist removal. Ross' supporters began to call the Ridges and Boudinot traitors. Boudinot eloquently responded that their patriotism consisted both in "love of country and the love of the people", saying "as a friend to my people, I cannot say peace, peace, when there is no peace". (4) Ross continued to fire the hopes of the people with his anti-removal message and convinced them to reject a treaty proposed by the U S. Yet another delegation was sent to Washington, this time with Ross at its head. The Ridges hoped this group, and all Cherokees would see the futility of continued opposition and work to make a treaty with the U S.

The Georgia lottery resulted in the properties of many Cherokees including the Ridges, Boudinot and even Chief John Ross being assigned to white Georgians. Georgia Governor Lumpkin, in appreciation of their support for removal, allowed the Ridges and Boudinot to remain in their houses "until such time as they remove to the West". This, of course, aroused more anger among the Cherokees who claimed Major and John Ridges and Boudinot were bribed. John Ridge wrote to Ross in

Washington to advise him of the escalation of Georgian actions against many Cherokees, including acts of violence. Ross' house was occupied by whites so, on his return from Washington, he found his family, with his wife Quatie sick, restricted to a small part of their own house. He was forced to move to a small cabin across the line in Tennessee.

Efforts began to agree on a treaty by both the U. S. and Chief Ross. However Ross insisted on allowing Cherokee who wished, to remain in Georgia, but this was rejected by Jackson's people. The Ridge party, knowing they had no broad support among the people, avoided making a treaty. Ross' brother Andrew did, but it was rejected by Congress. Finally the Ridges agreed to a treaty and returned to Georgia. Talk began of killing the Ridge party for what was viewed by the majority of the Cherokees as treachery.

These were surely hard times for Sarah and John's family. While John was in Washington, Sarah had to ask the military to eject people from their land after the ferry which John owned was taken over. (4) John eventually had to ask for payment from the U.S. for his losses. With Georgians taking more Cherokee lands, many of the Indians had no homes or means of support, so the Ridges and others with means, began to offer food as was the custom of the tribe.

After several attempts to gather the Cherokee in council to consider the treaty and Chief Ross' refusal to accept it, the Ridges and the U.S. held a council at New Echota to which all Cherokee were invited. On December 29, 1835, the Treaty of New Echota was signed by the Ridges, Boudinot and 17 other Cherokee, representing a minority of the Cherokee Nation. Major Ridge reportedly said after signing with his mark, "I have signed my death warrant". (5)

The Treaty of New Echota provided $4,500,000 to the Cherokees for exchanging their lands in the East for 13 million acres in the West. They would also receive eight hundred thousand acres in the West, estimated to be worth $500,000. The plan also included a perpetual annuity to provide for a school fund, a feature prized highly by the Ridge's. (4) Terms of the New Echota Treaty stipulated the Indians had to remove themselves by May 23, 1838.

Major Ridge, his family and several children, including Clarinda, daughter of John and Sarah, made plans to travel to their new home in the West. The Major Ridge Party left by boat in March 1837 led by a Capt.

John Young. John Ridge continued to settle his and his father's affairs, as well as working as president of a Cherokee council established to work with the government and Cherokees to settle their affairs, before moving west. These settlements included compensation for property lost by Cherokees when they left Georgia and funds to support their emigration.

John sent his ferry man, Childers, to Indian Territory to purchase land and take his horses and most of his slaves. He kept three slaves to drive the carriage, cook and care for the children during their trip west.

John, Elias Boudinot and their families left in September 1837 on their journey. Boudinot had married a missionary named Delight Sargent after Harriet Gold Boudinot died. They traveled to Nashville where John visited former President Jackson. From there they traveled into Kentucky, crossed the Ohio River into southern Illinois, then crossing the Mississippi River probably at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. They crossed southern Missouri, arriving in late November 1837 at Honey Creek in northeastern Indian Territory. John Rollin wrote that the trip for a ten year old, was "a zestful voyage among new flora and fauna". (5)

Life at Honey Creek

One of the Ridge's priorities at their new home was to establish a school for their children and others. So they wrote to Sophia Sawyer who had moved back East before the Ridges left Georgia. She traveled by boat to New Orleans, then up the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers to the New Dwight Mission station just northwest of Fort Smith in Indian Territory. The Ridges sent a party to escort Sophia to Honey Creek.

John had managed to get a house built, land cleared and crops planted. Having found his parents in good health, he went into partnership with his father in a large store to provide supplies for the Cherokees. He spoke highly of the land they had settled on. He did say the people who settled further South along the Arkansas River did not have such good surroundings and recommended the government settle the Cherokees yet to move further North where land was better and cheaper. (5)

John and Sarah made a trip to New Orleans, Pittsburgh and New York in March 1838 to buy merchandise John was convinced would be needed by the emigrating Cherokees. They also visited Sarah's parents who then lived in South Lee, Massachusetts. John became ill while there and had to stay to recover while Sarah traveled alone back to their Honey

Creek home. She arrived back in summer 1838 and John followed in September. The family thrived during the next few months as the rest of the Cherokee began to arrive. The store was doing well though much of the merchandise was being sold on credit to the arriving Cherokee because they were to receive per capita payments under the treaty. These credit accounts amounted to $9,000 or more and most were never collected.

The Trail of Tears

Bitterness over the treaty signed by the Ridge party grew during the forced part of the removal known as the Trail of Tears. Over 13,000 Cherokees were forcibly removed from their homes by an order of General Winfield Scott issued May 17, 1838. They were marched to four camps for what was expected to be a short stay before their journeys West were to start. The removal from their homes was abrupt, sometimes brutal, and allowed for no gathering of goods and supplies. Weather and other factors resulted in a considerable delay leaving the people in crowded and extremely difficult conditions for months. A report from a Dr. Butler in "Myths of the Cherokee" by James Mooney gives a figure of 2000 dying in the camps.(24) Reports from earlier contingents, and the delays, caused Chief Ross to propose that he take over management for moving the remaining Cherokee himself. General Scott accepted this and the first detachment led by a Cherokee, John Benge, departed on October 1, 1838. The Benge route included Fayetteville during the latter part of the journey. The area of their campsite in Fayetteville is marked on the north side of Sixth Street, just southwest of Fayetteville High School. Cherokee who moved on their own are considered part of the treaty party and not part of the Trail of Tears by many. A missionary, Rev. Butrick, who traveled with one of these latter contingents, wrote "All the suffering and all the difficulties of the Cherokee people [were] charge[d] to the account of Messrs. Ridge and Boudinot". (5) This was the general belief of most of the forcibly removed people including Chief John Ross.

Turbulent Times in Indian Territory

After all had arrived in Indian Territory, a series of meetings concerning a government for all Cherokees was held with the "Old Settlers", Cherokees who had moved years before, and the majority of the recently removed Cherokees. Events in and around these meetings raised the ire of many

who felt the Ridge party plotted with the Old Settlers to control the government against the Ross party and the majority of the Cherokees. After one of the meetings failed to achieve any agreements between the parties, a group of Ross party men met, and sentenced Major Ridge, John and Elias Boudinot to death under the Blood Law that these men had worked to get re-established in 1829 back in Georgia. Stand Watie, brother of Elias Boudinot was said to also have been named. The plotters drew lots to determine who were to kill the treaty party men. (5) No evidence exists that John Ross knew of this deadly plan.

In the early morning of June 22, 1839, some 25 men rode up to John and Sarah's house at Honey Creek. Three men entered the house and after a pistol misfired, they dragged John from his bed, into the yard and stabbed him to death. Sarah and their children watched as the killers threw his body into the air and stomped on it while he bled to death. Sarah was finally allowed to go to John but he could not speak due to his wounds and soon died. John Rollin was to carry that memory for the rest of his life as did Sarah. John's body was wrapped in a sheet and carried into his house where Sarah, his Mother and family surrounded him.

Another group rode to the house Elias Boudinot was building in Park Hill. This was near the home of the missionary Samuel Worcester, with whom Elias was working to translate and print religious and other material for the Indians. He was called to get medicine for a sick Indian and was struck in the head with a hatchet and stabbed. Worcester and the carpenters building his house came unsuccessfully to his aid.

Elias Boudinot Tombstone
Photo courtesy www.paulridenour.com

Major Ridge was riding to see one of his slaves who had been loaned to a friend. Some accounts say he was going to Van Buren (5) but others have said he was going to John Latta's place in Vineyard near present day Evansville, Arkansas. (6) He was shot from his horse and died at Graystone Creek near present day Dutch Mills, Arkansas in western Washington County. He initially was buried near there but his body was moved to the Polson-Ridge-Watie Cemetery near his Honey Creek home in about 1868 after the Civil War.

Stand Watie was warned after Boudinot was killed, and he left the area, possibly avoiding another murder.

Sarah moves to Fayetteville with her children

After the murders of John, Major Ridge and Elias Boudinot, Sarah felt that "every night our sufferings would be terminated by assassination from the murderers of my husband". Sarah later recalled "the Indians considered my property as public plunder ... they destroyed or stole my chickens, killed my cattle and hogs and .....turned their horses into the fields ——to destroy all the corn in their power". (5)

To escape this terror, Sarah, with her children and some slaves, and Sophia Sawyer, the teacher and their friend, moved to Fayetteville, some fifty miles from Honey Creek. They arrived July 1, 1839, nine days after John's murder. (5) Apparently Sarah's brother, William and his wife had come to Honey Creek to work in the Ridge store. William died shortly after coming to Fayetteville, and his wife and child stayed with Sarah until early 1840. (12)

In November or December, Sarah went to visit Elias Boudinot's widow and her children. According to a letter from John Rollin to Reverend Greene, secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, Sarah became ill after returning from her visit and required medical attention, apparently still distressed from the tragic events of the past year.

At some time in 1840, Sarah purchased property and a two room, "dogtrot" log cabin just west of the Fayetteville square. The cabin had been built by M.H. Clark in the mid 1830s.(7) In July 1839, Clark sold the house to J.M. Sheppard who sold it to Sarah. (8) She apparently made some improvements to the property to accommodate her family. (7) Various records indicate Sarah paid from $1,375 to $2,409.85 for the house and property which included three additional town lots. (8)

Ridge House in Fayetteville

Photo courtesy
Special Collections Department,
University of Arkansas Libraries (Pic 3041)

The larger figure may include the cost of improvements. There was difficulty obtaining a deed for the property as Sarah sued J.H. Stirman and Sheppard heirs in May 1847. (15)

In June 1842, Sarah wrote to John Spencer, Secretary of War, pleading that "to atone for the Government's negligence" in failing to protect them after the removal, she asked that they be "compensated for the pecuniary losses we have sustained .. to enable me to support and educate the children of my lamented husband". (22)

John Rollin relates that he, his sister and brothers attended Sophia Sawyer's school with some 30 students, most of whom were boys. He told Rev. Greene in a letter that Fayetteville was a place where "the people sometimes fight with knives and pistols and some men are killed here, but the people do not seem to mind it much". (23)

Sarah moves to Osage Prairie area in Benton County

Sometime in 1842, Sarah moved to the Osage Prairie area near present day Centerton, Arkansas, to work to settle John's estate. Hugh Anderson

who lived in that area, had been assigned part of John's estate to manage after John's death. George W. Paschal, John Ridge's brother-in-law, appeared in Benton County court in May 1845 representing the children of John and Sarah, in a suit filed by Sarah against Anderson. John's estate was listed consisting of 19 slaves with value of $7,000, cattle and horses, household and farming goods valued at $1,500. Also included in John's estate were goods he and Major Ridge had purchased to be sold in their store, valued at $21,270.80 and credit in the amount of $9,631.06 which had been extended mostly to Cherokees for goods bought at the store. Half of the goods, valued at $10,635.40 were credited to John's estate and half to Major Ridge's estate. Sarah sued Anderson to recover the money he had gained when the goods from the store were sold at auction. John's slaves were also to be used by Anderson on his property. Sarah sued for equal shares of John's estate for herself and for her children. (9)

In October 1844 Sarah wrote to John's cousin, Stand Watie from Osage Prairie asking his help in getting corn for feeding her family and in locating a slave woman who had been stolen from her. (8) Copies of two General Land Office patents dated January 1851 and November 1854 indicate that she acquired 240 acres of land located just a mile and half south of Centerton, Arkansas. (22) Most likely she lived on this property some time before the patents were issued.

In December 1844, complaints were received by Cherokee Nation Commissioners on behalf of Ridge heirs. Claims were for $30,000 invested and contracted, $10,000 extended credit because of promises of per capita payments to Cherokees, lost valuable improvements and participation in orphans fund when they left Nation. (20)

In May 1847, a report was made in Benton County court by Commissioners appointed to set Sarah and each of the children's share of the estate. Anderson was ordered to present to another Commissioner of the court account records and to pay the claims to the commissioner. By October 1849, Hugh Anderson had died and Robert Mecklin was appointed as Administrator in his place. (10) Mecklin later established the Ozark Institute at Mt Comfort. (5)

As the court case dragged on, George W. Paschal was also trying to gain a payment from the Government for John Ridge's death for Sarah and her children based on a treaty signed between the Ridge-Boudinot and Ross factions in 1846. He finally received $5,000 for each family.

(11) However, based on the Cherokee tradition of clan membership being based on the mother's clan, he sued Sarah and children for the amount of their settlement, claiming that he and his wife, John's sister, also named Sarah, should be granted the money. J.W. Washbourne, who had married Sarah's and John's daughter Susan in 1847, became Sarah Ridge's lawyer. Paschal and his wife filed suit in Benton County but it was not prosecuted. Sarah Paschal divorced George and moved to Texas.

Sarah Ridge remained in Benton County as she is listed in the 1850 census there with her seven children. During the period that she lived in Benton County some of her older children continued studies in Fayetteville. Sarah returned to Fayetteville by 1854 where she spent several months returning her house to a livable condition as described in a letter to her sister Eliza in which she reported on her children. Susan had been so ill she was brought to Sarah's house so she could be cared for, and likely Susan's two children as well. Her son Herman had a farm one and a half miles from his Mother's but lived with her as "it is too lonesome to stay by himself". Aeneas expected to get possession of his property and engage in business shortly. Andrew was still with his Mother engaged in studies, trying to decide what to do, until he came of age. Flora was studying with Sophia Sawyer at the Female Seminary. Lizzie, Rollin's wife had left to join him in California. (8)

Sarah became established in Fayetteville, hosting church meetings as described in the Journal of J.L. Dickson on December 18, 1854. She also hosted a tea for other women of the area as described in Marian Tebbetts Bane's Journal. (13)

Sarah dies in Fayetteville

On March 31, 1856, Sarah died after a severe case of pneumonia. Rev. S. Wells preached her funeral at Mt Comfort. It was said in her obituary that after the murder of John in 1839, Sarah truly bore "dead heart in a living bosom". (1) Several attempts have been made to locate her grave there but only a number of unmarked or unreadable stones were found.

On October 6, 1856, Sarah's children divided her estate among them according to a court record found in the Washington County Arkansas Miscellaneous Record Book, 1841-1879 located at Fayetteville Public Library reference section.

In 1858, Aeneas as administrator for John Ridge' estate, sold the house and property to Joseph Holcomb on installment plan. (16) J W Washbourne became administrator after Aeneas' death. Deed was recorded on sale to Joseph Holcomb on May 10, 1861. (18)

Sarah's Children

John Rollin killed a Judge Kell in Benton County in 1849, reportedly in self-defense. (8) He was never tried for the crime. Kell was reputed to have been involved in the June 1839 murders and John Rollin had a desire for vengeance for his Father's murder. After the Kell killing, John Rollin lived for a time in Missouri and briefly returned to Arkansas. In 1850, he migrated to California for the Gold Rush and stayed, becoming prominently involved in the newspaper business. His wife, Elizabeth Wilson of Fayetteville, joined him there. John Rollin died in Grass Valley California October 5, 1867. (5)

Clarinda was evidently mentally retarded, requiring care all her life. Records indicate her estate was being processed in 1859 after Aeneas died.

Herman Daggett was killed in 1864 near the family home at Honey Creek while fighting with Confederate Cherokee troops during the Civil War.

Aeneas married Mavis Saunders in 1858 in Springfield, Missouri. They built a home in Fayetteville where Aeneas was to practice medicine but he died in September 1859. Obituary indicates he was buried in Yell Cemetery at Waxhaws. (17) Another report says he is buried at Mt. Comfort near his Mother. Possibly he was moved there after the Waxhaws cemetery was abandoned.

Susan Catherine married Josiah Woodward Washbourne in 1847. She died August 21, 187,1 at her sister Flora Polson's place in Honey Creek area. (19) She and her husband are buried at Polson Cemetery near Honey Creek where John and his father are also buried. (21)

Andrew Jackson married Caroline Doom in 1856 in Austin Texas. He practiced law in Texas, moving to Grass Valley, California where John Rollin lived. He is buried there. (1, 5)

Flora Chamberlain married Dr. William Davis Polson in 1856 in Fayetteville. They lived in Indian Territory and are buried at the Polson Cemetery also. (21)

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FAYETTEVILLE CITY OFFICIALS

J.B. Hogan*

In Fayetteville's long history – in just over twenty years the city will celebrate its bicentennial – it has had many and varied civic leaders. The following lists of mayors, police chiefs, and fire chiefs are intended to be as exhaustive and as accurate as the primary sources – including, but not limited to, newspapers, city records, and local histories – will allow. The purpose of these lists is to provide historians and interested citizens an entry point into the history of Fayetteville municipal leadership. Over the years, the positions of mayor, police and fire chief have been directly impacted by the city's several incorporations. Fayetteville had at least six incorporations from its beginning until just after the turn of the twentieth century:

1828 (October 17), as Washington Courthouse
1836 (November 3), as Fayetteville, by state legislature
1841 (January), by county court as "The Aldermen and Town Council of the Town of Fayetteville"
1870 (August 24), by county court
1883 (November 15), as a City of Second Class – 2500 inhabitants
1905 (June 20), as City of First Class – 5000 inhabitants

Fayetteville Mayors - Introduction

In its one hundred and eighty year existence, Fayetteville has had many distinguished city leaders beginning with Alderman Pleasant Vinson Rhea on down to current Mayor Dan Coody. Alderman Rhea, who according to the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* (July 3, 1928) "Ruled Fayetteville" from 1841 to 1859, held the city's highest office longer than

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anyone before or since. Rhea was succeeded by J. W. Walker who served in 1859 as the first mayor under the city's new charter, which was granted by the state legislature. Walker was followed by Stephen Bedford whose term was cut short by the outbreak of the War Between the States.

Mayor Allen M. Wilson

From:
One Hundred Years of Fayetteville

During the war, Fayetteville city government was suspended, replaced by military administration. After the war ended, civilian rule was resumed and the first mayor elected to office, in 1868, was Col. M. Larue Harrison who had commanded the First Arkansas Cavalry (Union) during the Battle of Fayetteville, April 16, 1863.

The subsequent Reconstruction era in Fayetteville created, as it did elsewhere, some measure of local conflict with what was perceived as outside, and unwanted, federal and state intervention. Here in town, this conflict reached its peak with the municipal elections of 1871.

The weekly *Fayetteville Democrat*, owned and published by E. B. and W. B. Moore, crowed that the "Conservative" Democrat "Citizens" ticket had swept the elections. An unnamed acting governor in Little Rock did not agree, however, and replaced J. M. Pittman, the Democratic Party candidate who had apparently won the popular vote for mayor, with "Radical" Republican T. Murray Campbell. The Moores were so incensed by the installation of Campbell that they refused to recognize the new mayor or his city council on the pages of the *Democrat*.

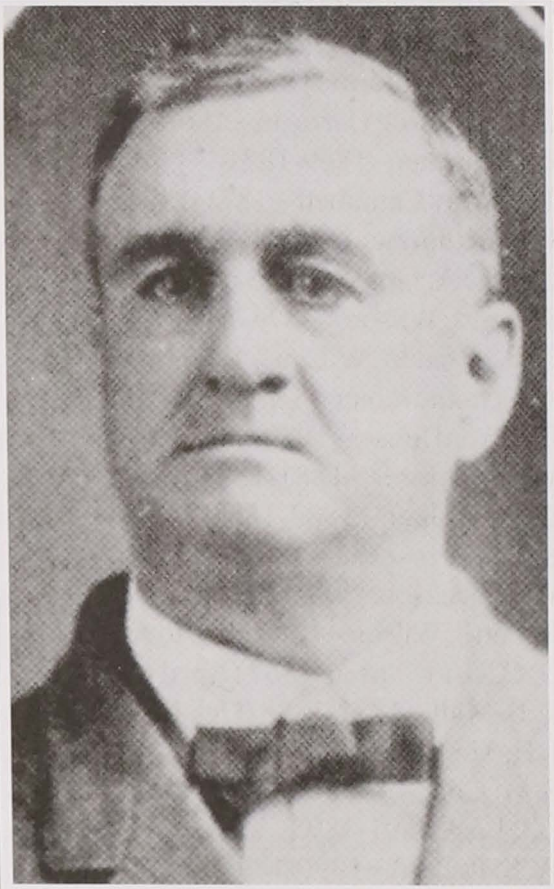
FAYETTEVILLE CITY OFFICIALS

When Reconstruction and the *Democrat* finally calmed down, Fayetteville had a long, settled period of regular elections (held every April), and a smooth transition from one mayor and council to the next ensued. With names like VanHoose, Eason, Mulholland, Rollins, Philips, Taylor and Wilson, the list reads like a who's who of local public service in Fayetteville's civic past.

In the years of the Great Depression, Mayors T. S. Tribble and A. D. McAllister battled through an unusual period of local corruption and with the help of the Civil Service Commission – established to provide oversight to the police and fire departments – and the Good Government League, the more brazen lawbreakers were swept from office and public prominence.

George Vaughan succeeded Mayor McAllister just as World War II was starting and his administration was about one year into its second term when Vaughan announced in March 1944 that he could no longer serve as the city's top official because he had been inducted into the Armed Forces of the United States. George T. Sanders became Mayor Pro-Tem and when Vaughan did not return in time to reclaim his position, Sanders was elected mayor himself in 1945 and served two terms in office.

In the years after the end of World War II



Mayor W.C. Jackson

From:
One Hundred Years of Fayetteville

until the mid-1960s, when Fayetteville adopted a City Manager/City Board form of government, long time public servants such as Powell M. Rhea, Roy Scott, and J. Austin Parish, and Guy E. Brown held the post of mayor.

From 1966 until 1992, when the Mayor/City Council form was re-adopted, Fayetteville was led by city managers like Don Trumbo, Garland Melton, Jr., and Joe Fred Starr. In 1975,

Marion Orton became Fayetteville's first woman mayor (the second, Marilyn Johnson, would serve in the latter 1980s). Since 1992 and the return of the mayoralty, two men, Fred Hanna and Dan Coody, have served as the city's top official.

The complete list of mayors is as follows:

P. V. Rhea – 1841-1859
J. W. Walker – 1859
Stephen Bedford – 1860
Col. M. Larue Harrison – 1868-1869
E. I. Stirman – 1869-1871
T. Murray Campbell – 1871-1872
J. R. Pettigrew – 1872-1873
George A. Grace – 1873-1874
Robert J. Wilson – 1874-1876
Col. Alfred M. Wilson – 1876-1877
A.S. Vandeventer – 1877-1880
J. H. VanHoose – 1880-1881
W. C. Jackson – 1881-1883
C. W. Walker – 1883-1884
S. E. Marrs – 1884-1885
W. C. Jackson – 1885 (April to Dec.)
Robert J. Wilson – 1886 (Jan. to April)
O. C. Gray – 1886-1887 (April to Oct.)
E. B. Wall – 1887-1888 (Oct. to April)
J. H. VanHoose – 1888-1890
F. M. Goar – 1890-1891
J. T. Lusk 1891-1895
W. S. Pollard – 1895-1897
Jack Walker – 1897-1901
Capt. J. T. Eason – 1901-1905
C. A. Mulholland – 1906-1909

W. H. Rollins – 1909-1913
Guy Philips – 1913-1914
Tom Taylor – 1914-1917
Allen M. Wilson – 1917-1919
J. M. Phillips – 1919-1921
Allen M. Wilson –1921-1929
T. S. Tribble – 1929-1935
A. D. McAllister – 1935-1941
George Vaughan – 1941-1944
G. T. Sanders – 1944-1949
Powell M. Rhea – 1949-1953
Roy A. Scott – 1954-1957
J. Austin Parish – 1958-1959
Guy E. Brown – 1960-1965
Don Trumbo – 1966-1968
Garland Melton, Jr. – 1969-1970
Joe Fred Starr – 1971-1972
Russell Purdy – 1973-1974
Marion Orton – 1975-1976
Ernest Lancaster – 1977-1978
David R. Malone – 1978-1979
John Todd – 1980-1981
Paul Noland – 1982-1986
Marilyn Johnson – 1986-1987
William V. Martin – 1987-1990
Fred S. Vorsanger – 1991-1992
Fred Hanna – 1992-2000
Dan Coody – 2001-

Fayetteville Police Chiefs - Introduction

The position of Fayetteville Police Chief was not created until 1906, after the city was incorporated as a first class city, but its equivalent, City Marshal, is traceable at least back to M. D. Frazer who held that position in 1860.

Unlike the mayor-appointed position of police chief, the city marshals were elected by municipal vote. H. C. C. Botefuhr was city marshal in

1869 and Jefferson Gilliland was elected to that position in December of 1870.

A city marshal with the unlikely name of A. K. Coward resigned his position in 1874 "in disgust" – most likely over lack of pay and the unruly behavior of denizens of "Smoky Row," a strip of bars and seedy establishments that used to exist in the area directly in front of where the "old" courthouse now stands at the eastern bottom of Center Street. Coward's replacement was Parson Elisha Robinson who was described in the local paper as a "South Methodist Minister."

J. D. Henry, who was elected City Marshall in 1875, had a near fatal encounter with unfriendly Native Americans when on a visit to a friend over in the Indian Territory. According to the *Fayetteville Democrat*, a group of men from a local tribe armed with pistols were intent on doing harm to Henry's friend and attacked the man's house during the night. Henry, who was not the target of the attack, and his friend, who was, both escaped the assault unscathed.

Just a few years later, on July 2, 1881, in a scene more reminiscent of Dodge City or Tombstone than sleepy Fayetteville, City Marshall W. D. Patton and Deputy Sheriff John I. Mount were shot down in cold blood near the northeast corner of the square by unknown assailants.

It was suspected that Patton was murdered in retaliation for killing a man named George Reed, who was part of a gang operating out of West Fork during this time. The *Democrat* vowed that the murderers would be brought to justice, but the resolution of this case seems to have been lost in the dozen decades since the killings occurred.

Among other City Marshals during this era were George H. Pettigrew, W. A. "Toy" Gregg – who served for many years in various local law enforcement positions – and Lee Duggans. C. S. Tunstill was the last elected City Marshal, serving from 1904 until 1906.

On June 20, 1905 Fayetteville was incorporated as a City of First Class (5,000 inhabitants) and in early 1906 Capt. U. L. Smeltzer (or Smelser) was appointed police chief by Mayor C. A. Mulholland. Capt. Smeltzer resigned in 1908 to be replaced by Alexander C. Cruse.

When W. H. Rollins became Mayor in 1909, he immediately appointed veteran law enforcement officer W. A. Gregg as chief and Gregg served in this position, with one short break when he ran for county sheriff and lost, for the next ten years. 1909 was also the year that the city passed

Fayetteville City Officials, 1928

From:
One Hundred Years of Fayetteville

Ordinance #259, which delineated for the first time the powers and duties of the chief of police position.

In 1930, Alexander Cruse's son Neal was appointed chief. A short four years later, after a virtual mountain of corruption charges had been leveled at him by the city and the Civil Service Commission, Neal Cruse was relieved of his position. Earl Hand took over as acting chief and held that position until 1939 when Ordinance #832 was passed abolishing the positions of Police and Fire Chief.

Mayor A.D. McAllister served as ex-officio Chief of Police and Chief of the Fire Department until 1941 when new Mayor George Vaughan was elected and became the new ex-officio chief of the two departments.

City Ordinance #852 was passed in May of 1941 creating again the "Seperate (sic) Office of Chief of Police of the City of Fayetteville." In September of that year Dan Allen was offered and accepted the position of police chief. Allen was chief until 1944 when he resigned to run for Sheriff of Washington County. Bob Day acted as chief until May when Mayor Pro-Tem George Sanders became ex-officio chief.

Finally, in March of 1945, City Ordinance #884 was passed describing the performance and duties of the chief of police. Sanders, by then officially

Fayetteville Police Department, ca. 1941.

L to R: Lyle Allen, Earle Hand, ??, Theo. Burns, Dan Allen, Jim Ptak, Mayor George Vaughan, Bob Jackson, Bob Day, Eldo Cole.

Photo courtesy: Shiloh Museum of Ozark History/Wshington County Historical Society Collection (P-34)

elected mayor, appointed Pearl Watts as permanent chief of police, ending better than a decade of upheaval in the police department and laying the groundwork for the orderly and more stable position of chief that we know today.

The following lists show both the city marshals and police chiefs over the years.

City Marshals – Elected

M. D. Frazer – 1860
H. C. C. Botefuhr – 1869 (as of January)
Jefferson "Bud" Gilliland – 1870-1871
Wesley Barnes – 1871-1872
Thomas Jennings – 1872-1873
A. K. Coward – 1873-1874
Parson Elisha Robinson – 1874-1875
J. D. Henry - 1875
W. F. Stirman – 1877-1880
W. D. Patton – 1881
Col. W. T. Barry – 1881-1882
J. H. Cooper – 1882-1883
A. B. Kell – 1883
George H. Pettigrew – 1883-1884
A. B. Kell – 1884-1885
T. J. Taylor – 1885-1886
H. S. Gray – 1886-1887
J. T. Reynolds – 1888-1890
H. F. "Dutch" Buie – 1890-1892
W. A. "Toy" Gregg – 1892-1894
W. P. "Pat" Moulden – 1894-896
Lee Duggans – 1896-1904
C. S. Tunstill – 1904-1906

Police Chiefs – Appointed

Capt. U. L. Smeltzer (Smelser) – 1906-1908
A. C. Cruse – 1908-1909
W.A. "Toy" Gregg – 1909-1913

A. C. Cruse – 1913-1914 (Dec. to April)
W. A. "Toy" Gregg – 1914-1919
A. C. Cruse – 1919-1921
R. F. Jackson – 1921-1923
Harry Sanford – 1923-1925
W. A. "Toy" Gregg – 1925-1929
Samuel Guinn – 1929-1930
Neal Cruse –1930-1935
Earl Hand – 1935-1939 (Acting)
Mayor A.D. McAllister – 1939-1941
Mayor George Vaughn – 1941
Dan Allen – 1941-1944
Bob Day – 1944 (Acting)
Mayor Pro-Tem George Sanders – 1944-1945
Pearl Watts – 1945-1962
Hollis Spencer – 1962-1975
Glen Riggins – 1975-1979
Clint Hutchens – 1979 (Acting)
Bob Jones – 1979-1986
Richard Watson – 1986-2002
Rick Hoyt – 2002-2004
Frank Johnson – 2004-2006
Gregg Tabor – 2006 to present

Fayetteville Fire Chiefs – Introduction

The beginning of Fayetteville's Fire Department is somewhat obscured by the smoky haze of distant history. W. S. Campbell, in his history *One Hundred Years of Fayetteville, 1828-1928*, says that George Albright was the first fire chief beginning just "after the Civil War."

A few years after the war, in 1869, The *Fayetteville Democrat* did report an early attempt to form a Fire Company and by 1872 the Washington Fire Company had been organized but it had no equipment. The next year local businessmen provided the company with ladders, buckets and such. In January 1874, however, the department – now called the Washington Hook and Ladder Company disbanded.

Finding the exact dates when the department reorganized and when Albright became its chief is problematical due to the paucity of source

Fire Engine emerging from the Block Street Station, ca. 1942

Photo courtesy of
Special Collections Department,
Unniversity of Arkasnsas Libraries (LOC 1362)

materials. But, on January 22, 1876, a fire broke out at the Book Store on the east side of the square and the *Democrat* reported that Capt. George Albright was credited with putting out the flames before they could do major damage to the store. It appears Albright may have put out the fire all by himself.

In 1877 the *Democrat* reported a meeting of the apparently reconstituted Fire Company, and in 1880 there was a news story about the "Fire Brigade" putting out a fire burning down on troublesome Smoky Row. In 1885 George Albright is mentioned in the *Democrat* as being a member of the fire department and so it would seem, then, that Campbell's vague original date for Albright's selection as the first fire chief, while lacking an exact source, seems to be a reasonable assumption.

According to an article in the *Fayetteville Daily* for January 27, 1909, however, the fire department was officially established "in 1896." This date does seem to mark the beginning of the "modern era" for the department as it has been in verifiable, continuous existence since that time.

Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department, 1906

Photo from Fayetteville: A Pictorial History

Uncertain as its beginnings may have been, we know for certain that the following year, 1897, the fire department got its first horse drawn wagon. Twenty years later, on October 1, 1917, the older technology was discarded when the first motorized fire truck was purchased and put into operation. This truck was replaced in 1918 by a "350-gallon pumper" and in 1925 the city bought a "750-gallon pumper" at the cost of $12,500.

At the heart of the Great Depression, in 1934, the municipality of Fayetteville, like most of the rest of the nation, was struggling financially and otherwise. To help with local problems, a three-man Civil Service Commission was established with oversight powers for both the Fire and Police Departments. By the end of the 1930s, on August 17, 1939 to be exact, the city adopted the recommendations of the Civil Service Commission and passed city ordinance #832 which eliminated the offices of Fire and Police Chief. Dropping these positions also enabled the city to save money at a time when meeting the budget was very critical.

From 1939 to 1941 Mayor A. D. McAllister served as ex-officio Fire Chief and Police Chief. In September of 1941, members of the Fire Department successfully petitioned the mayor and city council for the right to appoint their own acting chief and Henry George was selected for that position.

From that time, George served as acting chief, except for a few months in 1946, until Burl Skelton was appointed temporary chief in November of 1948. Skelton was appointed permanently in 1949 and was the first man to serve as full-time paid fire chief.

The full list of fire chiefs follows:

Fayetteville Fire Chiefs

George Albright – ca. 1865-1897
Frank Mayes – 1897-1906
Clay Duggans – 1906-1917
C. W. Hansard – 1917-1922
C. W. Winkleman – 1922-1929
Clyde Walters – 1929-1939
Mayor A. D. McAllister – 1939-1941
Henry George – 1941-1946 (Acting)
Carl Tune – 1946 (Acting: May-November)
Henry George – 1946-1947 (Acting: November-March)

Henry George – 1947-1948
Burl Skelton – 1949-1971
Charles McWhorter – 1971-1977
Paul Logue – 1977-1985
Mickey Jackson – 1985-2001
Dennis Ledbetter – 2001 (Interim)
Chris Bosch – 2001-2005
Marion Doss – 2005 (Interim)
Tony Johnson – 2005 to present

Deadline for Lemke Prize Submissions Extended

Due to publishing delays, the deadline for submitting entries for the Washington County Historical Society's first annual W.J. Lemke Prize has been extended to **March 15, 2008**.

Anyone interested in Washington County history, whether a professional or amateur historian, is encouraged to enter. Topics can be on any phase of Washington County's history or archeology, deal with an individual or institution connected with the county, and can address any time period.

The winning article will receive $300; Second prize receives $200. Both winners receive framed certificates. Winners will be recognized at a reception in early 2008.

Manuscripts will be judged on their contribution to the expansion of the county's history; the originality of the subject; and, the use of primary and secondary sources. The manuscripts must be original material, and not have been previously published; no more than 40 pages, typed, and doubled-spaced. Footnotes should be included on separate, double-spaced pages, although they do not count toward the 40-page limit. The title page should contain the heading "W.J. LEMKE PRIZE," the full title of the manuscript, the author's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

Entries become the property of the Washington County Historical Society and will not be returned to the author. All papers will be considered for publication in the *Flashback*. Copies of all entries in the Lemke Prize will be deposited with the Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas Libraries. Entries may be mailed to Tim Nutt, Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701, or emailed to timn@uark.edu by March 15, 2008. If the entries are emailed, they should be either in the PDF or Microsoft Word format.

Entries already received will still be considered. The Society reserves the right to award only one or no prizes.

For additional information on the W.J. Lemke Prize, please contact Tim Nutt at the above address or at 575-8443 or timn@uark.edu

News and Notices

AWHI Announces Call for 2008 Pryor Award Submissions

The Arkansas Women's History Institute invites submissions for its annual Susie Pryor Award competition. The award is named in honor of Susie Hampton Newton Pryor, a mother, community leader, local history, and writer from Camden.

Founded in 1983, the Arkansas Women's History Institute is dedicated to encouraging the study of Arkansas women's history, and to promoting public awareness of the contributions women have made in the development of the state.

The Pryor Award offers a $1,000 prize for the best unpublished essay on topics in Arkansas women's history. Manuscripts are judged on their contributions to the knowledge of women in Arkansas' history, the use of primary and secondary materials, and analytical and stylistic excellence. The winning paper may be published.

Deadline for submissions is February 8, 2008. The winner will be announced at the annual conference of the Arkansas Historical Association in Eureka Springs, March 27-29, 2008.

For guidelines, or for more information about the Susie Pryor Award, please contact: Ethel C. Simpson, Chair, AWHI Susie Pryor Awards Committee, 409 North Oliver Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701. Simpson may also be contacted by phone at (479) 442-2929 or email via esimpson@uark.edu.

From Our Readers

Dear Sir--

I read the current *Flashback* with much interest because I "grew up" in Fayetteville and well remember the "old Fieldhouse," as well as Coach Schmidt.

I also remember Wear Schoonover, though I was then in High School–as I recall, when he was All-American, in 1930, he was "boarding the train" to take a basketball trip, I think to the West Coast, the step that was placed on the platform where passengers boarded, must have turned, anyway, he injured his ankle or foot,–and I believe did not get to play or some awful tragedy!

Everyone was so upset (I expect he was the most!)

I remember it so well.

—Addie Lee Lister
Prairie Village, Kansas

[Editor's Note: The Winter 2007 issue of the *Flashback* included the article "The Golden Era of Razorback Basketball," by Don Schaefer. The article often refers to "Schmidt's Barn," the old University of Arkansas gymnasium.]

PLANNED GIFTS

Making charitable gifts to the Washington County Historical Society will enable it to continue and expand its programs.

If you are making regular gifts to the Washington County Historical Society or would like to start, you may find it beneficial to set up or give:

1. A **charitable lead trust** that will pay income to WCHS for a set period.
2. A **charitable remainder trust** that will allow you to transfer property to a trust set up for WCHS without paying capital gains tax on the sale of the property.
3. **Appreciated securities** at their current value and take an income tax deduction for the year up to 30% of adjusted gross income.
4. **Gifts from your retirement account** that could be an integral part of planning for those withdrawals.
5. **An irrevocable life insurance trust** that could own your life insurance, when it no longer serves its purpose, to make a charitable gift that could reduce the estate's tax bill.

There are a number of ways to enhance your retirement plans while still providing for your charitable interests and making gifts you never dreamed possible. Consult with your financial advisor on other ways you can make charitable donations. These planned gifts will provide added tax benefits for you and your heirs while helping to support the vital mission of the Washington County Historical Society for years to come.

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